

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone having a base unit and a plurality of handsets, each of said base unit and plurality of handsets being at a different location, the method comprising the steps of:

answering, by a first party answering the incoming call at one of said base unit and said plurality of handsets; a handset of the cordless telephone, the handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone;

initiating an intercom connection, by an intercom initiating party, to alert an intercom receiving party; the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between the handset and the base unit, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the base unit by terminating the hold status.

automatically placing said incoming call in a hold status if either said intercom initiating party or said intercom receiving party is also said answering party; and

accepting said incoming call, by said intercom receiving party, by terminating the hold status.

Claim 2. (currently amended) The [[A]] method of as in claim 1, wherein the first party accepts the incoming call by terminating the hold status. further comprising:

accepting said incoming call, by said answering party, by terminating the hold status.

Claims 3-4. (cancel)

Claim 5. (currently amended) A method of answering an incoming call at a cordless telephone with a base unit and at least a first handset and a second handset, said base unit and said at least first and second handsets being at separate locations, the method ~~multiple handsets~~ comprising the steps of:

a first party answering the incoming call at a first handset of the cordless telephone;~~the~~
~~a second handset being at a location separate from a base unit of the cordless telephone~~
~~and said first handset;~~

the first party alerting a second party, by initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset, while the incoming call is automatically placed in a hold status; and

the second party accepting the incoming call at the handset by terminating the hold status.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station; and

at least two cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station, each including second control circuitry for controlling operations at said handset;

said first and second control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and handset to place an active call at at least one of said base station and handset on hold during said intercom communication.

Claim 7. (currently amended) The system as in claim 6, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between said base station and said handsets.

Claim 8. (currently amended) The system as in claim 7, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be re-engaged when said base station or said handsets terminates said intercom communications.

Claims 9. (previously presented) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station; and

at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second handsets respectively;

said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at said base station or one of said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The system as in claim 9, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between said base station and said at least said first and second handsets.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The system as in claim 10, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be re-engaged when said base station or one of said at least a first and second handsets terminates said intercom communication.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A cordless telephone system comprising:

a base station including first control circuitry for controlling operations at said base station and separate intercom buttons for each of a plurality of cordless telephone handsets said plurality of cordless telephone handsets comprising at least a first and second cordless telephone handsets for communicating with said base station including second and third control circuitry for controlling operations at said first and second handsets respectively and a separate intercom button for said base station and each other of said handsets;

said first, second and third control circuitry operating in response to initiation of an intercom communication at one of said base station and said first and second handsets to place an active call on hold during said intercom communication.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The system as in claim 12, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be placed on hold when said intercom communication is initiated during said active call and initiates said intercom communication between said base station and said at least first and second handsets.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The system as in claim 13, wherein said first control circuitry causes said active call to be re-engaged when said base station or one of said at least a first and second handsets terminates said intercom communications.

Claims 15-18. (cancel)

Claim 19. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of initiating an intercom connection ~~between the handset and the base unit further~~ comprises activating an intercom initiator, ~~on said handset.~~

Claim 20. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, wherein said step of alerting a second party further comprises sending an intercom connection request signal, ~~from said handset to said base unit.~~

Claim 21. (currently amended) A method as in claim 1, further comprising terminating said step of initiating ~~an intercom connection between the handset and the base unit by sending an end intercom signal, from said handset to said base unit.~~

Claim 22. (currently amended) A method as in claim 21, wherein said step of sending an end intercom signal ~~from said handset~~ further comprises activating an intercom control, ~~at said handset.~~

Claims 23-27. (cancel)

Claim 28. (previously presented) A method as in claim 5, wherein said step of alerting a second party further comprises sending an intercom connection request signal from said first handset to at least said second handset.

Claim 29. (previously presented) A method as in claim 5, further comprising terminating said step of initiating an intercom connection between said first handset and said second handset by activating an intercom control on said first handset.

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Claims 30-43. (cancel)